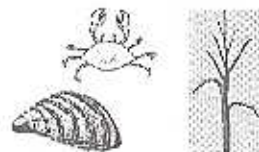


NUISANCE NOTES

Spring, 1999

Western Update, No. 8



EXECUTIVE ORDER ON INVASIVES SIGNED

In February, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13112 to coordinate a federal strategy to address the growing environmental and economic threat of invasive species, plants and animals that are not native to ecosystems in the United States. This EO signals an expanded effort to combat invasive species.

Many ecologists believe the spread of exotic species is one of the most serious, yet least appreciated, threats to biodiversity. Invasive plants inflict a heavy toll on American agriculture, reducing the quality and raising the cost of food, feed, and fiber. Experts estimate that invasive plants already infest over 100 million acres. Three million acres, an area twice the size of Delaware, is lost of invasive plants each year. The total economic impact of invasive plants on the U.S. economy is estimated to be about \$123 billion annually. Invasive animal species wreak billions more in damage to crops and rangeland.

The President's order directs federal agencies to use their authority to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species and to restore native species. It directs the new Interagency Council to come up with an invasive species management plan within 18 months. President Clinton's budget for fiscal year 2000, proposes an increase of more than \$28.8 million in funding to combat invasive species. This includes new funding for combating exotic pests and diseases as well as accelerating research on habitat restoration and biologically-based integrated pest management tactics.

STATE UPDATE

ALASKA October 1, 1998 marked completion of the first year of a two-year investigation entitled: "Biological Invasions of Cold-Water Coastal Ecosystems: Ballast-Mediated Introductions in Port Valdez / Prince William Sound, Alaska." WRP State Contact Bob Piorowski (907-465-6150).

ARIZONA Arizona is in the process of developing ANS working group with the goal of developing an ANS State Plan. State WRP Contact Larry Riley, AGFD (602-789-3258).

CALIFORNIA The California Fish and Wildlife Commission decided to deny requests to establish a mitten crab commercial fishery. Two ballast water regulatory bills are before the CA legislature. Senate Bill 394 amending the Fish and Game Code and AB703 amending the Water Code. In 1999 Vessel intercepted at the border by CDFW with zebra mussels attached. CALFED has provided FY 98 funding to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop an NIS Program as part of their restoration effort here in the Bay Delta. State WRP Contact Randy Brown CA Dept of Water Resources (916)227-7531.

COLORADO Recent addition of *Dreissena bugensis* to state's "Prohibited Species" list. Eurasian Water Milfoil identified in the upper Rio Grande River at Alamosa. State WRP Contact Chuck Loeffler. CDOW (303)291-7451.

GUAM Brown tree snake control and monitoring program in place. WRP Contact Michael W. Kuhlmann (671-734-3942).

HAWAII WZMTF Contact Myron Isherwood, Department of Agriculture Fax (808-973-9613).

IDAHO WZMTF Contact Bill Horton, Idaho Fish and Game Department (208-334-3791).

KANSAS Big Head Carp Distribution and Impact Study being developed for lower Missouri in collaboration with KSU-BRD-USGS. Proposed for 2000 WZMTF Contact Patrick Cassidy, Board of Public Utilities (913-573-9656) or State WRP Contact Tom Mosher 316-342-0658.

MONTANA Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and Mont. Dept. of Agriculture are planning a invasive species work group meeting with the goal of developing a joint Invasive species plan in 1999. WZMTF Contact Tim Gallagher, (406-444-2448).

NEBRASKA NE Dept of Agriculture is chairing a state interagency work group to address invasive species in NE. State WZMTF Contact Steve Schainost Nebraska Game and Parks (402-471-5443).

NEVADA State WRP Contact Jon Sjoberg, NDW (702-486-5127).

NEW MEXICO Fisheries Div. is developing an ANS management plan. Final plan will be out in 1999. NM State WRP Contact Brian Lang, New Mexico Game and Fish Department (505-827-9904).

NORTH DAKOTA Briefing conducted for fisheries division of wildlife department on ANS. 100th Meridian efforts will be expanded to include boaters on Sakakawea and Devils Lakes. State WRP Contact Terry Steinwand North Dakota Game and Fish Department (701-328-6313).

OKLAHOMA Arkansas River, Oklahoma on 25 Feb '99 of z.m. 588/sq. meter. Same unit on 21 Nov '97 1,255. Decrease in numbers attributed to the extremely hot summer in '98. Powerhouse personnel reported water temperature was over 80F most of the summer and there were several weeks of >90F. WZMTF Contact Everett Laney, USACOE (918-669-7411).

OREGON The OR Dpt of Fish and Wildlife (ORDFW) co-hosted a workshop on management implications of cooccurring native and introduced fishes. The Oregon Department of Agriculture supported coordination of aquatic nuisance species management in the Pacific Northwest through the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and Portland State University in collaboration with the WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, CA Dpt of Water Resources, Bonneville Power Authority, and US BOR. The OR legislature approved establishment of a Center for Lakes and Reservoirs at Portland State University that will focus on technical assistance and management planning for aquatic nuisance species. State Contact Andrew Schaedel Oregon Department of Environment.

SOUTH DAKOTA 100th Meridian efforts will be expanded to include Lake Sharpe and Lake Oahe and Interstate-90. WRP Contact Dennis Unkenholz-605-733-6770 South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department.

TEXAS Exotic Shrimp Diseases-TPW Coastal Fisheries Staff continued to monitor populations of Gulf and bay shrimp for presence of viral diseases. Importation of exotic shrimp species for use in south Texas aquaculture facilities have raised concerns about the possibility of infection of native shrimp by viral transfer from infected exotic species. Some evidence of low levels of shrimp viruses have been found in wild populations of shrimp, however, no exotic shrimp viruses (which have been problematic in South Texas shrimp farms) have been found in native shrimp species. State WRP Contact Bill Harvey 512-389-4394.

UTAH The Utah Interagency ANS Action Team has initiated a comprehensive outreach effort through z.m outreach materials with Contact Randy Radant, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (801-538-4812).

WASHINGTON Contact Scott Smith WDFW (360-902-2328). Completed the recommendations from the Zebra Mussel and Green Crab Task Force. WDFW assisted in the drafting of a state ANS bill, based upon the Task Force recommendations, that would establish an ANS Coordinating Committee and provide additional authority and funding for ANS projects to various state agencies. WDFW presented a proposal to the Fish and Wildlife Commission that would establish an ANS Washington Administrative Code to declare ANS and establish authority to allow for volunteer monitoring programs.

WYOMING Beginning April 1, 1999, bait dealers can no longer import minnows from other states and can only sell bait fish that were commercially raised or seized in WY. Inspections have often revealed that imports of golden shiners and fathead minnows were contaminated with undesirable species. The new regulation will reduce introduction of exotics such as stickleback and rudd. Contact Mike Stone, WGFD (307-777-4559).

TRIBAL UPDATE

INLAND TRIBES Contact Michael L. Durglo, Jr. (406-675-2700)

ALASKA NATIVES Contact Adelheid Hermann, AL Board Member of NAFWS (907-246-8332)

COASTAL TRIBES Contact Derrick Toba (360-651-4480). Several western tribes are currently involved in exotic weed removal efforts through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. These eradication and control programs include exotic wetland and intertidal woods on tribal Reservations. Tribes currently participate in the Washington State Exotic Species Implementation, the Exotic Species Workgroup of the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin Task Force, the Ballast Water Subcommittee of the Puget Sound Marine Committee, and other committees dealing with non-indigenous aquatic species.

PROVINCIAL UPDATE

ALBERTA Contact Rob Burland, Alberta Environmental Protection (403-382-4015)

BRITISH COLUMBIA Contact Bob Truelson British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Land, and Parks (250-387-9492).

MANITOBA Monitoring efforts indicate that zebra mussels have not established in Manitoba. Efforts continue toward public information and education regarding zebra mussel prevention in the province. Custom officials and the general public have provided zebra mussel display cases at the major border crossing with North Dakota for easy identification. Road signage has been cost-shared again this year with the Province of Ontario along the busy east-west corridor. For further information, please contact Wendy Ralley (204) 945-8146, wralley@gov.mb.ca. Contact Dwight Williamson, Manitoba Dept of the Env. (204-945-7030)

SASKATCHEWAN Contact Rick Sandon, Saskatchewan Department of Environment and Resource Management (306-787-7812).

FEDERAL UPDATE

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE ANS coordinators are available to provide technical assistance to state, federal, and private interests in regard to ANS. Region 1 (CA,OR,WA, ID, NE, HI) - Denny Lassey, Portland, OR (503-230-5973), Region 2 (TX, NM, OK, AZ) - Bob Pitman, Tishomingo, OK (580-384-5710), and Region 6 (MT, WY, UT, CO, ND, SD, NE, KS) - Linda Drees, Manhattan, KS (785-539-3474X20). Natl ANS Coord. Arlington, VA - Bob Peoples (703-358-2026).

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION The Bureau of Reclamation WZMTF homepage can be accessed at <http://www.usbr.gov/zebra/wzmtf.html>. The Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species Page can be accessed at <http://www.wrp-ans.org>. Contact Tracie Greene (303-445-2206).

NATIONAL BIOLOGICAL SERVICE Southeastern Biological Science Center The Center maintains a nonindigenous aquatic species geographic information system and current zebra mussel location maps. World Wide WEB server (<http://www.nfrcg.gov>) or contact Amy Rensen (904-378-8181).

SEA GRANT The National Sea Grant College Program New York Sea Grant maintains an aquatic nuisance species information clearinghouse and publishes an information review, *Dreissena polymorpha*. A corbicular library is now being developed. Contact Charles O'Neill, Jr. (716-395-2638). Minnesota Sea Grant is working with USFWS to develop a boat inspection video for use by resource managers and the public. The video will provide the viewer with information on specific exotics and how to remove them from different boat types. Contact Doug Jensen (218-726-8712). Washington and Oregon Sea Grant Programs are collaborating on a new joint program called the Pacific Northwest Marine Invasive Species Team (PNW MIST). The objective of PNW MIST is to coordinate information and outreach along the west coast of the U.S. on non-indigenous species such as the European green crab (*Carcinus maenas*) and the varnish clam (*Nuttallia obscurata*). Pacific Northwest MIST plans to provide two-way communication between researchers and others in the NIS community as well as the affected water resource users such as divers, boaters, volunteer groups, etc. For more information: In Oregon, contact Paul Heimowitz, Oregon Sea Grant, 503/722-6718 or in Washington, contact Nancy Lerner, Washington Sea Grant Program, 206/616-8403.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS North Pacific Division is developing an ANS display for location in ACOE office. Z.M. prevention signs being placed along the Columbia River. Contact Jim Athern (503-806-3935). Tulsa District verified z.m. sitting on trailered boat in Grand Lake, OK. Initial review of visitors visiting 2 Corps managed Lakes in OK finds 1/4 to 1/2 traveling from infested states. Contact Everett Laney 915-569-7411

THE 100TH MERIDIAN INITIATIVE

The multi-state boater education/inspection initiative created to prevent the western spread of zebra mussels into the western United States will be in action during summer 1999. Boater education sites will be manned in ND, SD, NE, KS, OK, TX. For more information contact Bob Pitman USFWS 580-384-5710.

PUBLICATIONS

1. Westbrooks, R. 1998. **Invasive plants, changing the landscape of America: Fact book**. Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW). Washington D.C. 109 pp.
2. **ANS Digest** provides information on "many aspects of the aquatic nuisance species problem including, policy and management issues, current research efforts, and descriptions of specific species." Contact **ANS Digest**, Spring Hill Center, 725 County Road Six, Wazata, MN 55391 (612-449-0092).
3. CD-ROM information systems designed by USACOE, **Aquatic Plant Management and Noxious Nuisance Plant Management** - Contact Michael J. Grodowitz, Ph.D. USACOE 601-634-2372.

MEETINGS

The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force will meet in Duluth MN April 29-30, 1999. For information contact Bob Peoples at (703-358-2026)

The 9th International Zebra Mussel and ANS Conference, April 26-30th, 1999. Duluth, MN call 1-800-868-6776

Western Regional Panel on ANS Fall Meeting - October 5-6, 1999 Austin, TX. Contact Bill Harvey TXPWD 512-369-4642 or Linda Drees -785-539-3474X20

Exotic Organisms in Greater Yellowstone: Native Biodiversity Under Siege, Oct. 11-13, 1999, Yellowstone NP, Contact Joy Perlus 307-344-2209

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO CONTRIBUTE INFORMATION TO "NOTES", CONTACT LINDA DREES, USFWS (785-539-3474X20), 315 Houston St. Suite E, Manhattan, KS 66502. Nuisance Notes will be published twice yearly: fall and spring. Linda_Drees@fws.gov